GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1219
ANSWERED ON:25.02.2003
MINING EXPLORATION OF PRECIOUS SEMI PRECIOUS STONES
BIKRAM KESHARI DEO;P.D. ELANGOVAN

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the States where precious/semi precious and Gem stones are available, State-wise especially in Orissa and Chhattisgarh;

(b) whether the Government have any special schemes and project proposals to improve the quarrying mining and exploitation of these stones deposits in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the quantity of these stones deposits available in the country alongwith the quantity and value of stones exploited annually during the last three years, their usage/consumption in local market;

(e) whether the export of these stones has been badly affected in the recent years;

(f) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to remove the crisis;

(g) the companies who have sought the permission from Government for prospecting and mining of the Gem stones;

(h) whether these companies will put up lapidiary units to process the precious and semi-precious Gem stones; and

(i) if so, the places selected for putting up the Gem parks in Orissa and Chhattisgarh?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS)

(a) to (d): As per the information available with Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), a subordinate office under Ministry of Mines, State-wise recoverable reserves of Precious/Semi precious and Gem stonesare given at Annexure - I. The quantity and value of gem stones (precious and semi precious) produced during the last three years is given at Annexure-II. The National Mineral Policy (NMP) recognized the need for encouraging private investment including foreign direct investment and attracting state of the art technology in the mineral sector. In pursuance of the NMP, Central Government has thrown open mining sector for private investment including foreign direct investment. All efforts are being made to increase investment in mining sector by creating investment friendly climate and removing bottlenecks to attract such investment. This liberalization is attracting world class companies in mining sector including Gem stone bringing capital and advanced technology in mining sector. While gem variety of garnets, ruby, sapphire, emeralds and diamond are used in jewellary, industrial variety of corundum and garnet are used as abrasive and industrial diamond is used for manufacturing drill bits.

(e)& (f): The details of export of precious and semi precious and gem stones as per information furnished by IBM are given at Annexure- III. The exports have fluctuated over the last four years, and exports in 2001-2002 have generally increasedas compared to 1998-1999.

(g) & (h): Mineral Concessions are granted by the State Governments. For precious stones including diamonds, these concessions are granted after obtaining prior approval of the Central Government. Since January 2000, inter-alia M/s NMDC, M/S/De Beers India Prospecting Ltd., M/s Geomysore Services (India) Private Ltd., M/s ACC-Rio-Tinto Exploration Ltd., M/s CRA Exploration India (Pvt) Ltd., M/s AMIL Mining India(Pvt) Ltd. etc have been accorded prior approval for grant of reconnaissance permits for diamond and associated minerals. At the stage of reconnaissance, consideration of setting up of lapidary units is premature.

(i): The information regarding places selected for putting of Gem Parks by State Governments is not centrally maintained.

ANNEXURE-I

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA UNSTARRED Q.NO.1219 FOR 25.2.2003 ASKED BY SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN AND SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO REGARDING MINING/EXPLORATION OF PRECIOUS/SEMI PRECIOUS STONES

STATE-WISE RECOVERABLE RESERVES OF PRECIOUS /SEMI PRECIOUS AND GEM STONES AS ON 1.4.2000

Sl. NO	State/Mineral	Unit	Recoverable reserves
1.	Diamond		
	All India	Carates	2643824.00
	Andhra Pradesh	Carates	5465.00
	Chhttisgarh	Carates	1304000.00
	Madhya Pradesh	Carates	1334359.00
2.	Corrundum		
	All India	Tonnes	32335.15
	Andhra Pradesh	Tonnes	1094.19
	Chhattisgarh	Tonnes	22.26
	Karnataka	Tonnes	15293.70
	Rajasthan	Tonnes	11925.00
	Tamil Nadu	Tonnes	4000.00
3.	Sapphire		
	All India	Kilogram	450.00
	Jammu & Kashmir	Kilogram	450.00
4.	Ruby		
	All India	Kilogram	469.45
	Orissa	Kilogram	469.45
5.	Garnet		
	All India	Tonnes	47703160.35
	Andhra Pradesh	Tonnes	11743147.30
	Chhatisgarh	Tonnes	575.00
	Jharkhand	Tonnes	91512.24
	Kerala	Tonnes	196888.00
	Orissa	Tonnes	14191104.00
	Rajasthan	Tonnes	134482.81
	Tamil Nadu	Tonnes	21345451.00

ANNEXURE-II

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA UNSTARRED Q.NO.1219 FOR 25.2.2003 ASKED BY SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN AND SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO REGARDING MINING/EXPLORATION OF PRECIOUS/SEMI PRECIOUS STONES

PRODUCTION OF GEM STONES (PRECIOUS & SEMI-PRECIOUS) IN INDIA DURING 1999-2000 TO 2001-2002

(Value in `000 rupees)

Name of Mineral	Unit	1999-2000 Qty	1999-2000 Value	2000-01 Qty	2000-01 Value	2001-02 Qty	2001-02 Value
Corundum	Kg	20	20	6709	43	1	4
Agate	tonnes	120	120	120	120	53	53
Diamond	Carats	40956	213985	57407	300687	81448	396096
Garnet (ab)	tonnes	193406	53373	232259	65016	281546	83952
Garnet(gem)	Kg.	800	112	502	113	677	152

ANNEXURE-III

EXPORT OF PRECIOUS AND SEMI-PRECIOUS & GEMSTONES (1998-99 TO 2001-02)

(Value in crores)

Name	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
Precious & semi-Precious stones	685	661	545	716
(NES)				
Garnet (cut & uncut)	13	23	7	17
Garnet (natural)	15	19	16	42
Diamond (mostly cut)	19977	27909	28248	28206
Emerald	143	168	308	196